

cylindrica), and other herbs are widespread. Vines such as trumpet-creeper (*Campsis radicans*) are locally abundant. Remarkable is the near absence of exotic plants such as Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*), privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*); however, the exotic trailing plant known as moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*) is abundant in a few places.

Sloughs weave through the site. These are lower and muddier, and they contain different vegetation, such as dense stands of lizard's-tail (*Saururus cernuus*) and common water-purslane (*Ludwigia palustris*). These sloughs lean toward the Floodplain Pool natural community, though no obvious standing water was noted on the site visits.

The majority of the natural area, including both of the Storys Creek and Marlowe Creek arms of the floodplain, is considered to be within a Secondary Area. Though this area contains several presumed beaver ponds, it is almost entirely regenerating from being cleared or pastured several decades ago. Most trees are only about 50 feet tall, and there is little understory. The area contains very thick shrubbery or vine tangles, and Japanese stilt grass is locally abundant. Nonetheless, the Secondary Area contains a wide array of native herbaceous plants in the wet openings.

The animals utilizing the floodplain have not been well studied. The Significantly Rare northern gray treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*), if correctly identified by voice, was heard during the inventory along the Hyco River and along Marlowe Creek near Edwin Robertson Road (SR 1322). It certainly must occur within the natural area. The locally scarce silvery checkerspot [butterfly] (*Chlosyne nycteis*) occurs in openings in the natural area.

PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT: The site is unprotected and is in private ownership. Fortunately, the Primary Area lies within a single tract, and thus there might be a reasonable chance for protection for it through a conservation or other easement. The Primary Area should be set aside from timber harvest. Monitoring of any beaver activity might be needed. Activity by beavers in the secondary area might be favorable, in terms of creation of ponds in areas already in early succession; however, beaver activity should be discouraged in the Primary Area.

NATURAL COMMUNITIES: Piedmont/Mountain Swamp Forest (Typic variant).

RARE PLANTS: None known.

RARE ANIMALS: None known, though northern gray treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*) found nearby and suspected to occur.